

<< PREVIOUS SECTION

Land Use Conversion

Indicator: Land Use Conversion by county, from 1992 to 1997. This indicator portrays the amount of non-federal land moving from non-use or agricultural use to more intensive developed land (urban areas and rural transportation land) between 1992 and 1997.

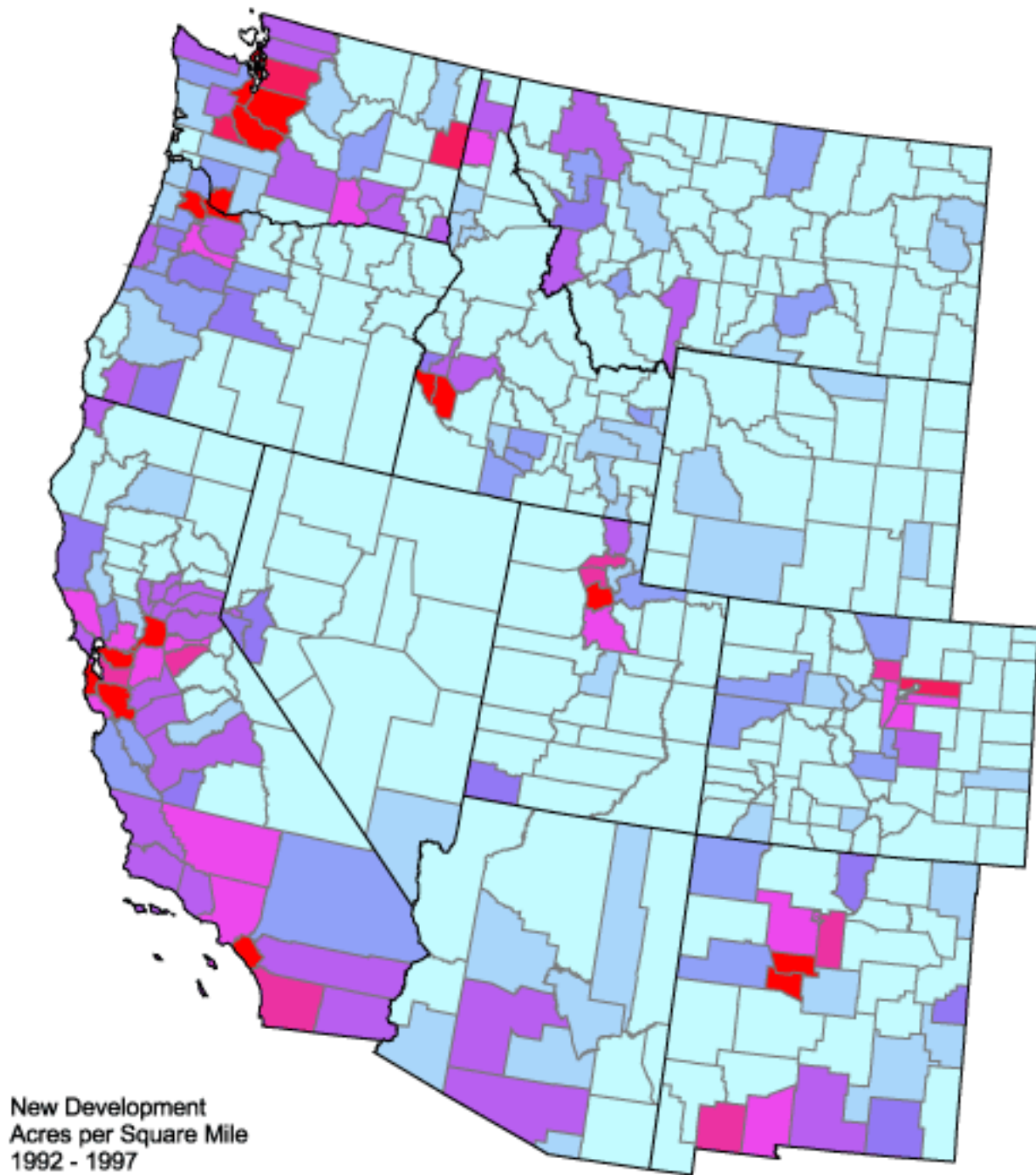
Key Findings: The Natural Resources Conservation Service estimates that 15,966,000 acres were converted in the western states between 1992 and 1997. They further estimate that 5,521,800 acres of conversion, or about one-third, occurred in non-metropolitan areas. No regional generalizations are apparent concerning BLM lands and non-federal land use conversion. However, one area of potential interest lies on the western border of Idaho where very rapid land conversion has occurred adjacent to subbasins with 60-80 percent BLM land and in proximity to areas with relatively high population density. This combination could produce significant pressure on these public lands as people may view them as sanctuaries from urbanization for both humans and wildlife. Opportunities to form partnerships may arise out of the pressures associated with urbanization and the need to manage growth.

Limitations: This information reflects only broad national trends in land conversion. It is based on National Resources Inventory (NRI) sample data, and is only considered reliable for state and certain broad substate area analysis. The sampling design applied is not capable of picking up sparse development, such as 35 acre ranchettes.

Source: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - 1992 and 1997 National Resources Inventory (NRI); ASCII Data File is available for products 5123 and 5124 "New Developed Land ... " <http://www.nhq.nrcs.usda.gov/land/index/urban.html>.

Comments: None.

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Scale 1:12,000,000

[NEXT SECTION >>](#)

[RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)